

Message Text

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15

ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 SMI-01 SCI-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00

NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 INR-11 PA-04

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO AMCONSUL BOMBAY IMMEDIATE

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 10132

DEPARTMENT PASS SMITHSONIAN FOR RIPLEY; DOD FOR DEPT OF ARMY
AND DIA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TBIO, IN

SUBJ: BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY (BNHS) INVOLVEMENT
IN THE PTI KSTORY ON WHO

1. FURTHER TO OUR TELEPHONE CONVERSATION THIS MORNING,
IN YOUR CALL ON SALAM ALI I BELIEVE YOU SHOULD SUGGEST
THAT IT IS IN HIS INTEREST AND IN THE INTEREST OF BNHS TO
CHARACTERIZE THE PTI STORY AND SOME OF YESTERDAY'S ALLEGATIONS
IN PARLIAMENT AS UNFOUNDED ATTACKS ON NORMAL,
USEFUL SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH. HOPEFULLY HE WILL BE WILLING
TO DO THIS WITH RELIABLE JOURNALISTS.

2. ADDITIONALLY, I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE IN ALI'S INTEREST
AS WELL AS OURS IF HE WOULD EXPLAIN TO THE PRESS IN SOME
DETAIL WHAT EXACTLY THE CONNECTION WAS BETWEEN THE US
ARMY MIGRATORY ANIMAL PATHOLOGICAL SURVEY (MAPS) AND THE
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION AND HIS SOCIETY'S BIRD STUDIES.

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3. WITH RESPECT TO MAPS, THE RECORD AT THE EMBASSY SHOWS

THAT ON JULY 15, 1967, DR. ALI ON BEHALF OF THE BNHS APPLIED FOR A GRANT TO THE US ARMY TO CONTINUE HIS SOCIETY'S RESEARCH WHICH HAD BEEN GOING ON SINCE 1928. THE GRANT APPLICATION STATED THAT "OWING TO LACK OF FUNDS" THE PROJECT WOULD OTHERWISE "HAVE TO BE ABANDONED."

4. FROM 1967 TO 1970 MAPS PROVIDED BNHS WITH GRANTS TOTALLING \$11,000 IN RUPEES.

5. THE INDIAN MINISTRY OF FINANCE APPROVED THE TRANSFER OF PL-480 FUNDS TO BNHS IN CONNECTION WITH THESE GRANTS IN 1969. FROM THE OUTSET, MAPS SUPPORT TO THE BNHS STUDIES WAS COORDINATED WITH THE INDIAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. THESE GRANTS WERE MAPS SOLE CONNECTION WITH THE BNHS PROJECT. NO AMERICAN PERSONNEL, MILITARY OR CIVILIAN, WERE INVOLVED IN FIELD STUDIES.

6. CONCERNING THE DELIVERY OF REPORTS, THE ONLY MAPS REQUIREMENT WAS THEIR USUAL ONE; NAMELY, "THAT REPORTS BE MADE AVAILABLE TO CONTRIBUTORS UPON THE APPLICANTS' APPROVAL." ALL REPORTS WERE UNCLASSIFIED.

7. CONCERNING THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION'S SUPPORT TO BNHS, OUR RECORDS SHOW THAT FOUR GRANTS WERE MADE FROM 1967 TO 1971 FOR A TOTAL OF RS. 527,740. ALL THESE GRANTS WERE APPROVED BY THE GOI'S UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION. THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE APPROVED THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS. NO SMITHSONIAN FIELD PERSONNEL PARTICIPATED IN THE STUDIES.

8. OBVIOUSLY DR. ALI CAN HIMSELF BEST EXPLAIN THE PURPOSE OF HIS BIRD STUDIES AND THEIR VALUE TO INDIA AND TO WORLD SCIENCE. I BELIEVE HE SHOULD DO SO WITH THE PRESS IN SOME DETAIL. HE IS ALSO IN POSITION TO MAKE IT ABSOLUTELY CLEAR THAT THE STUDIES EMPLOYED NO RADAR OR OTHER ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE METHODS.

9. THE FORMER HONORARY SECRETARY OF THE BNHS, ZAFAR FUTEHALLY (WHO IS ALSO SALIM ALI'S NEPHEW), WAS JUST AT THE EMBASSY WHERE HE TALKED WITH WILLIAMS, MILLS AND KREISBERG. HE AGREED COMPLETELY THAT SALIM ALI SHOULD ISSUE A FULL AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THOROUGH STATEMENT ON THE BIRD PROJECT AND TELEPHONED ALI FROM HERE TO MAKE THAT POINT. SALIM ALI AGREED AND MENTIONED HE WOULD BE SEEING YOU LATER IN THE DAY. WE HOPE YOU CAN REINFORCE HIS DETERMINATION TO SET STRAIGHT WHAT IS REALLY A MUD-SLINGING EXERCISE AIMED STRAIGHT AT THE BNHS AND DR. ALI.
MOYNIHAN

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